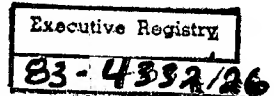


SPECIAL REPORT

Foreign Media Reaction



September 5, 1983

DOWNING OF SOUTH KOREAN PASSENGER PLANE - IV

Summary

Media in Western Europe and the Far East and other scattered areas today led with the Washington disclosure that a U.S. reconnaissance plane was in the general area at the time the KAL Boeing was downed by Soviet MIGs.

Today's conservative Daily Telegraph held that "the belated American admission...is certain to prove a windfall for Soviet propaganda efforts."

Lisbon's pro-Socialist Jornal de Noticias said the possibility that the Soviet pilot thought he was shooting at a military plane "may change the whole case and ridicule the worldwide accusations..."

Japanese television networks today broadcast White House spokesman Speakes' statement that a U.S. RC-135 reconnaissance plane had flown in the vicinity.

At the same time editorial writers devoted considerable speculation to how the United States would and should respond. Correspondents in Washington maintained the Administration would be restrained. Conservative Frankfurter Allgemeine's correspondent said the President "had expressed himself in favor of...a quiet, controlled but absolutely firm" action.

Throughout the world, media tried to reason why the tragedy happened. Many writers attributed it to world tensions. Hong Kong's independent Ming Pao worried that the Soviets are "under severe tension, nervousness and full of hostility...with fingers always on the trigger..."

United States Information Agency

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WESTERN EUROPE

BRITAIN

Presence of U.S. Reconnaissance Plane

The reported presence of a U.S. reconnaissance plane in the area at the time of the Soviet attack on the South Korean passenger jet, made headlines in all London papers today.

"U.S. Spy Jet 'Near Jumbo'"

Headlines said "Airliner Was Mistaken for American Spy Plane" and "Russian Refusal to Accept Guilt at U.N. Proves Self-Defeating" (Times), "Russia Hints Fighter Pilot Mistook His Target--U.S. Spy Plane Was Near Area of Jet Attack" and "Sanctions in Difficulty" (Guardian), "Reagan Hints at 'Painful Sanctions'--U.S. Spy Jet 'Near Jumbo'" and "Jumbo May Have Been Fleeing the Russians" (Daily Telegraph), "No 'Major' Sanctions Against Moscow by U.S. Over Airliner" (Financial Times) and "U.S. Had a Spy Plane There" (Daily Mail).

"Soviets Admit Mistake"

Today's independent Times of London ran reports from correspondents that "the Soviet Union indicated yesterday that it had mistaken the Korean airliner...for an American spy plane with a similar outline...

"U.S. Response Expected to Be Restrained"

"Despite strong language used by President Reagan to express his horror at 'this murder of innocent civilians,' the U.S. response is expected to be restrained and largely limited to an international effort to condemn the attack and take measures to make it safer to fly nearer the Soviet Union.

"In the White House it is recognized that the United States still has to do business with the Soviet Union no matter how appalled Americans may be..."

"Soviet Classic Approach to Crisis Has Angered Diplomats"

Another report in the paper said, "Moscow's refusal to depart from the classic Soviet approach to crisis, which seeks to place all blame on the United States, has angered diplomats from a broad political spectrum at the U.N. and has illustrated how diplomatically self-defeating the rigidity of the Soviet system can be."

White House's and Soviet General's Statements

Washington correspondent Harold Jackson wrote in today's liberal Guardian that "the White House disclosed last night that an American military reconnaissance aircraft had been flying off the Russian coast at the time that the ill-fated Korean airliner was approaching and that the Soviet air defense system had apparently been confused about the identity of the two planes..."

"At the same time, the Chief of Staff of the Soviet Air Defense Command, Colonel-General Semyon Romanov, said, in an account circulated by TASS, that the Boeing 747 'flew with extinguished lights and its outlines resembled those of the American Reconnaissance plane RC-135."

"Incident Encouraged 'Sense of Urgency' at Arms Talks"

The paper's Brussels correspondent reported today that the disaster "encouraged a greater sense of urgency in NATO at the Geneva arms control talks--a sentiment which was shared yesterday by the Soviet Union's negotiator who called on the United States to seize this opportunity for agreement..."

"Admission Is Windfall for Soviet Propaganda"

Today's conservative Daily Telegraph ran the report of Washington correspondent Richard Beeston that "the Reagan Administration acknowledged for the first time yesterday that the Soviet Union initially mistook a Korean airliner for an American spy plane but insisted that by the time the Korean jumbo jet was shot down its true identity was known..."

"The belated American admission...is certain to prove a windfall for Soviet propaganda efforts to blame the episode on U.S. espionage activities..."

"Major Economic and Political Sanctions Ruled Out"

Today's Financial Times said, "President Reagan has ruled out 'major' economic or political sanctions against the Soviet Union...and instead is seeking a 'calm but firm' response with the maximum international backing..."

In an editorial the paper said, "Above all it would be wrong for sanctions to be taken unilaterally by the United States....Other Soviet-U.S. and East-West consultations, such as the arms talks in Geneva and the meeting between Mr. Shultz and Mr. Gromyko, should go on because they are about other issues..."

Nationalistic Daily Mail judged that "the startling White House admission that there was an American reconnaissance plane around adds a new dimension to the crisis..."

"Boeing Tragedy: Questions Without Answers"

Headlines in Paris today included "Reagan Prepares Sanctions" (France-Soir), "Captain Chun Pushed the Wrong Button" (Le Matin), "Boeing Tragedy: Questions Without Answers--Was South Korean Plane Conducting Espionage Activities in Disdain for Safety of Its Passengers" (Communist Humanite) and "Washington Wants to Internationalize Response to USSR" (Figaro).

"Crime Will Go Unpunished"

An editorial in today's mass appeal France-Soir asked, "What credit can be accorded to pacifist declarations of men (in the Kremlin) who are nothing but coldblooded killers?"

Today's conservative Quotidien de Paris expected that the "crime" will "go unpunished because skillfully, knowledgeably and scientifically the Soviets succeeded in distracting the attention of the world from the only obvious important reality in the affair--the coldblooded assassination of the 269 passengers..."

An editorial in Communist Humanite today said, "Four days after the disappearance of the Boeing...numerous questions remain unanswered. The most often asked concerns the total silence of the Boeing crew during the more than two hours of its deviation from its flight path..."

"Flagrant Act of Brutality Is Going to Slip By"

Leftist Liberation judged today, "It appears that the most flagrant act of brutality in the entire history of the cold war is going to slip by without disturbing East-West relations."

"All signs are that, despite a concert of curses flung at the Soviet Union, the Western nations are disposed to writing off the 269 victims to the profits and losses of the grand geopolitical maneuvers..."

ITALY

"Moscow Admits Possible Error"

Italian headlines today said "Moscow Admits 'Possible Error'" (Corriere della Sera), "Did Military Hide From Andropov Decision to Shoot Down Jumbo Jet?" (La Stampa), "Strong Measures Against Soviet Union--Reagan Will Announce Them in Agreement With Allies" (Il Giornale), "Reagan Consults Allies--Andropov Was Not Informed" (Il Messaggero) and "Reagan Calls for Blocking of All Flights for USSR" (Communist l'Unita).

"U.S. Will Propose Suspension of Air Traffic to USSR"

Milan's centrist Corriere della Sera today ran the report of New York correspondent Ugo Stille that "everything seems to confirm the prediction that the President intends to propose to the allies the suspension...of commercial air traffic with the USSR, and to link resumption to a commitment from Moscow to 'ground rules' which will avoid in the future the danger of a repetition of last week's incident..."

"Even INF Talks Cannot Be Unaffected"

An editorial in Turin's centrist La Stampa today said, "Even the most specific and concrete of the East-West negotiations, the INF talks, cannot be unaffected by the general climate.

"And this climate will be determined to a large measure by the tone of the dialogue between the diplomatic chiefs of the superpowers, and most of all by the explanations which Gromyko may or may not give about the attack..."

"It Was the System That Pushed the Button"

Milan's conservative Il Giornale in a front-page editorial today said, "Either Andropov gave orders to the generals or the generals gave orders to him. It doesn't change much because the system...is necessarily based on unscrupulous military expansion. It was the system that pushed the button..."

WEST GERMANY

"Thoughtful Reaction by Washington"

Among headlines today were "U.S. Considers Boycotting Soviet Aeroflot" (Bonner Rundschau), "Reagan for Sanctions Against Aeroflot" (Frankfurter Neue Presse), "Thoughtful Reaction by Washington--Disarmament Talks To Be Continued" (Frankfurter Allgemeine), "Reagan: Geneva Discussion Must Continue Despite Murder of 269 People" (Rheinische Post) and "USSR Claims to Have Evidence of Intelligence Flight" (General-Anzeiger).

"President in Favor of Quiet...Firm Response"

Conservative Frankfurter Allgemeine led today with Washington correspondent Jan Reifenberger's report that "President Reagan has expressed himself in favor of dealing with the Soviet in a quiet, controlled but absolutely firm way. He announced that the INF talks and START negotiations will be continued....The United States also intends to adhere to the grain deal..."

"President's View: Western Reaction Should Be Thoughtful"

Munich's pro-Social Democratic Sueddeutsche Zeitung ran a lead story by Washington correspondent Klaus Arnsperger that "In President Reagan's view, Western reaction...should be marked by thoughtful determination.

"He said there is no justification for the 'murder of 269 people.' However, the white House indicated that U.S. Soviet relations will not be frozen and the Geneva negotiations will continue..."

Bonn's conservative Die Welt held, in an editorial today, that "the most important aspect is the provocation and its background: there is a power struggle going on in Moscow..."

Independent General-Anzeiger of Bonn said, "President Reagan finds himself confirmed in his view of the USSR. He can point to his military efforts which keep the Soviet threat within limits.

"He need not resort to drastic sanctions to prove his firmness toward Moscow. That is one explanation for his relatively mild but reasonable response..."

NETHERLANDS

"U.S. Plane Near Boeing"

Headlines today included "U.S. Plane Was Near Boeing--Korean Plane Possibly Confused With Spy Plane" (Algemeen Dagblad), "President Reagan Considers Limiting Soviet Airspace" (De Volkskrant) and "American Plane In Area" (De Telegraaf).

An editorial in today's conservative Algemeen Dagblad of Rotterdam, pegged on the cancellation of a visit to Moscow by Dutch parliamentarians, said, "By not going to Moscow, the Dutch delegation is sending a clear signal to the Russians that the (airline incident) cannot be fobbed off in the blunt way the Russians have done so far..."

FINLAND

A radio newscast in Helsinki today had a Washington report that "a U.S. espionage plane was operating in the area" of the KAL tragedy. The report said "U.S. intelligence officials" said the U.S. plane, however, left two hours before the incident.

SWEDEN

"While Sweden Hunts Alien Submarines U.S. Pleads for Support"

Stockholm's liberal tabloid Expressen yesterday ran the headline "In Midst of (new) Submarine Hunt, U.S. Pleads: 'Help Us Punish Soviets.'" The paper said, "At the same time as the hunt for alien submarines was being intensified...President Reagan pleaded for support from Sweden and other countries for concerted action to punish the soviet Union--a boycott against Aeroflot.

"Sweden ought to participate, in view of all the submarines, a State Department official told Expressen..."

PORTUGAL

Pro-Communist paper: "U.S. Responsible for Countless Bloody Acts"

Lisbon's pro-Communist O Diario held that "in the face of what is going on it is important not to forget that the United States and its allied regimes are responsible for countless events with bloody consequences...(the Korean war, Vietnam, Cambodia, Lebanon etc.)"

Pro-Socialist Jornal de Noticias yesterday said, "The possibility that the Soviet pilot thought he was in the presence of a military aircraft without navigation lights and which did not respond to radio warnings...may change the whole case and ridicule the worldwide accusations of 'crime,' 'barbarism,' 'paranoid act,' 'cowardly slaughter' and 'premeditated murder.'"

AUSTRIA

"Reagan Wants His Opinion of Soviets Reconfirmed"

Independent Die Presse of Vienna today had the observation of Washington correspondent Georg Possanner that "the Reagan administration is trying to make it clear that this catastrophe reconfirms the opinion it has held about the Soviet Union since the very beginning..."

A columnist for the tabloid Kronen-Zeitung wrote that "there is only one thing the Soviets should do--confess their guilt. Such behavior would be becoming if they still want to be regarded as members of the community of nations rather than as highwaymen of the air."

TURKEY

"Bells of Danger Are Tolling"

Istanbul's popular Gunes today ran the headline "Soviets At Last Accept Mass Murder." The paper ran front-page pictures comparing a Boeing jumbo jet with a plane identified as an RC-135.

An editorial said, "The reports that the bells of danger are tolling for the human race are not empty statements. A mistake by a pilot or a calculation or a show of superiority rips the life away from hundreds."

ICELAND

"Soviets Trying to Cover Up With Cheap Statements"

In Reykjavik on Saturday, Althydubladid held, "This mass murder of civilians by the Red Army awakens the disgust of the entire world.

"The Soviets are not trying to cover up this incident by just keeping quiet, but they are trying to cover up with some cheap statements."

Leading Morgunbladid said, "It is hard to understand what lies behind the Soviet attack on the airliner. The act is totally inexcusable....The fact that the airliner may have strayed into Soviet airspace does not allow them to shoot it down..."

EASTERN EUROPE

BULGARIA

"There Are Questions that Remain to Be Answered"

In Sofia last night a television commentator read from a New York Times story suggesting that "there are questions that remain to be answered..."

Communist Party paper Rabotnichesko devoted half the front-page today to two TASS items on the incident accusing the U.S. of starting an anti-Soviet propaganda campaign.

EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC

JAPAN

Soviets Confirm Plane Shot Down by Air-to-air Missile

NHK-TV, TBS-TV and Fuji-TV today focused attention on an AP report from Moscow which said a Soviet source has confirmed for the first time that the KAL jumbo was shot down by an air-to-air missile. The network said the source stated that the order to shoot down the Korean airliner was given by top military brass in Moscow.

Speakes Says U.S. R-135 Had Flown in Vicinity

The networks also carried reports from Washington which said White House Deputy Press Secretary Larry Speakes has stated that a U.S. RC-135 reconnaissance plane had flown in the vicinity of the KAL plane's course one or two hours before the incident, indicating, according to the networks, the possibility of the Soviets' mistaking the jumbo for the RC-135.

Foreign Ministry To Press Soviets to Disclose Facts

Liberal Asahi today reported that Chief Cabinet Secretary Gotoda, who is acting Foreign Minister, met officials of the Ministry to discuss counter-measures. The report said the Foreign Ministry has confirmed its policy of strongly pressing the Soviet Union to disclose the facts of the incident and to cooperate on research operations.

In order to draw out a reply from the Soviet side, Asahi said the Foreign Ministry has decided to (1) study joint action with the United States in seeking permission to enter Soviet territorial waters to conduct U.S.-Japan search activities and (2) not to carry out sanctions against the Soviet Union.

Moderate Yomiuri today said Prime Minister Nakasone has stated that Japan will strongly pursue Soviet responsibility through close contacts with the United States and South Korea.

"Soviets Should Cooperate in Search for Passengers and Crew"

The Tokyo Shinbun in an editorial today said, "If the Soviet Union does not admit its mistake on the shooting down of the KAL plane and continues to take an insincere attitude toward international opinion which seeks clarification of the truth, future East-West relations will be seriously affected."

"An agreement must be reached at the U.S.-Soviet disarmament negotiations because this is of top importance. While continuing to pursue Soviet responsibility for shooting down the Korean airliner, it is necessary on the other hand to promote calm diplomacy toward the Soviet Union on other issues."

The paper said that "the stand taken" by the United States and Japan in not imposing sanctions against the Soviet Union "is proper and we give our full support."

"The first step the Soviet Union must take is to reveal all the facts.... The Soviet Union should then cooperate in the Japanese search for the passengers and the crew...and compensate the families of the victims as well as make maximum efforts to prevent recurrence of such incidents."

"Mutual Sincerity and Honesty Are Needed at Madrid"

Liberal Asahi in an editorial on the Madrid CSCE conference said today, "The KAL incident could lead to East-West exchanges at the Madrid talks. Mutual sincerity and honesty are needed the most to regain confidence and overcome the present ordeal. We especially hope that Foreign Minister Gromyko will keep this in mind."

HONG KONG

Reagan to Announce Sanctions Against USSR

Most independent papers today front-paged AP reports that President Reagan is to announce sanctions against the USSR.

"Will Never Escape the Judgment of History"

Center-right Wah Kiu Yat Po in an editorial today said, "This savage act of 'aerial massacre' will forever be hated by God, be forever reviled by the whole world and will never escape the judgment of history."

"USSR Conducting Secret Military Activities in the Far East?"

The independent Hong Kong Daily in an editorial today asked, "Is the USSR conducting some secret military activities or deployment near northern Japan or the Far East?"

Whether or not the downing of the Korean airliner was to conceal any move of Soviet missiles to the Far East, the paper concluded, "At least it contains a sting toward Japan's increase in its military posture, and to show its colors toward the Sino-Soviet talks which are about to resume."

"Moscow Has Single-handedly Changed Its Own Image"

Center-right Sing Tao Jin Pao said in an editorial today that Moscow "has single-handedly changed its own image and put itself in an extremely isolated position." The paper said the incident allows everyone to learn how "not to entertain any illusions about the expansionist USSR" and "begin a relentless attack against 'Great Russian Expansionism.'"

"Soviet Fingers Always on the Trigger"

Independent Ming Pao in an editorial today said the Soviet Union gave orders to fire on the Korean airliner "because they are constantly under severe tension, nervousness and full of hostility, ready to fight any time, with fingers always on the trigger, monitoring their imagined enemies day and night, their every moment waiting for enemies to descend from the air or rush in from the sea, palpitating with anxiety and fear, treating every bush and tree as an enemy."

Such a state of mind, said the editorial, is extremely "abnormal" and "greater disasters can be concealed behind such a mentality."

"A Missile, a Commercial Airliner Exposed Soviet Hegemonism"

Pro-PRC Ching Po said on Saturday that "on certain questions and at certain times, the USSR adopts a conciliatory posture, but in fact there is no change in its basic hegemonism. One missile and one commercial airliner exposed the 'hegemonist' air of the Soviet Union."

"Shameful Brand on Soviet Communism"

Mass appeal independent Sing Pao Daily News said at least the Chinese Communists have issued indirect criticism. "The shooting down of a commercial airlines and the killing of over 200 people is a shameful brand on Soviet Communism."

JAKARTA

Indonesian Government: "An Act Beyond Humanity"

Papers today reported Foreign Minister Mochtar Kusumaatmadja's statement, after a meeting with President Soeharto, that the incident was "an act beyond humanity" and that "the Soviet Government is fully responsible."

He added that the tragedy was all the more regrettable "because the Soviet Union, with its modern and sophisticated technological equipment, has all the capability to prevent such a tragedy from occurring."

"Shocking and Repulsive"

The pro-Government English language Indonesia Times said in an editorial today, "Shooting down of an unarmed civilian plane with so many passengers and crew is certainly cruel and inhuman and in violation of human rights and civilized human conduct.

"Whatever, the reason, it should not have been done. It is shocking and repulsive."

"All Countries of the World Strongly Condemn This Incident"

Military-oriented Berita Yudha commented, "It is not surprising that all countries of the world strongly condemn this incident. More than a few stamp it as a barbaric act, uncivilized."

SOUTH ASIA

INDIA

"Indian Reaction Sounded Ludicrous"

The Chandigarh Tribune, in an editorial today, said, "Among the international reactions...the official Indian comment was conspicuous for what could only be described as fumbling nonalignment or, if a more charitable view were to be taken, deplorably poor draftsmanship. As things turned out the Indian reaction sounded ludicrous."

SRI LANKA

"What If the Plane Had Belonged to a U.S. Airline?"

The Government-owned English language Daily News wrote today, "The event has certainly not left its perpetrators with any psychological or moral advantage. It is clear that the world stands outraged..."

"Explanations can sometimes be more painful than the error they seek to excuse.

"Even more fateful could be the caution which the shooting raises against the possibility of triggering off a greater missile catastrophe. There are many observers today asking themselves what might have followed if the plane had belonged to a U.S. airline."

BANGLADESH

"Soviet Image Blackened for Many Days to Come"

The New Nation of Dahka in an editorial yesterday said, "The Soviets have not reacted satisfactorily to the mounting world pressure by even as much as giving their whole facts, whatever their merit, of the incident. Why?...

"However the wheels of international justice may turn and the Soviets be made to make amends, the way the sensibilities of fairminded people all over the world has been outraged is sure to keep the Soviet image blackened for many days to come."

Pro-Government Ittefaq said, "The Soviet Union, by destroying a defenseless passenger aircraft, violated the international airspace law as well as the principle of general international peace and coexistence."

"Afghanistan Precedent for Soviets' Barbarous Masssacre"

Sangram commented, "There is precedent that only the Soviets can commit such barbarous act of masssacre--not in air, but on land. Those who can indiscriminately kill the innocent people of Afghanistan for no offense also can hurl a missile to down a civilian passenger carrier plane."

NEPAL

Foreign Ministry: "Loss of Innocent Lives Was Indeed Deplorable"

Media today carried a Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman's statement that "the reported shooting...was both tragic and disturbing. Although the plain facts are yet to be ascertained, the incident leading to the loss of 269 innocent lives on board the aircraft, if correct, was...deplorable."

"World Must Strongly Protest"

Pro-PRC Naya Nepal Current yestrerday wrote, "By such an inhuman and cruel action the Soviet Union has earned a great deal of hatred and anger from the people of the world...In order to bring the Soviets back on the right track, it is important that the world must strongly protest and the same time not cooperate with the Soviets."

The independent weekly Valley News and Views today said, "Even given the benefit of the doubt, this ugly international tragedy opens up a Pandora's box of unlimited possibilities of the mighty."

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MIDDLE EAST

JORDAN

Papers Recall Downing of Libyan Plane by Israelis in 1973

The Jordan Times of Amman today described the incident as "shocking and worrisome" but warned again "the further sharpening of the already tense international situation following the tragedy."

While condemning "whoever is responsible," the paper added "it is inconceivable for us to understand the U.S. total obsession with the use of big stick diplomacy in every problem except that of the Palestinians."

Recalling an incident over the Sinai in 1973 when a Libyan airliner was shot down by Israeli fighters, the paper asked, "Does Washington remember its reaction then? Did the Americans contemplate imposing sanctions against the Zionist state for its ugly crime?"

Independent ar-Ray yesterday warried a byliner's assertion that "no human being can condone the shooting...However, this crusade against the Soviet Union is inexplicable to us Arabs who suffered the downing of a Libyan airline by Israeli fighters in 1973 and no such crusade was launched against the Zionist state."

LATIN AMERICA

BRAZIL

Sao Paulo Newspapers Quote President Reagan

Leading O Estado de Sao Paulo and Folha de Sao Paulo yesterday both cited the President's statement that the USSR continues to distort the truth and that the Soviets still owe the world "explanations and apologies for this act of brutality..."

"This Tragedy Will Have Results"

Liberal Folha de Sao Paulo carried a Paris correspondent's conclusions yesterday that "the tragedy and crime of the Boeing will result in destroying all the efforts made by the Soviet Government to show its intention to negotiate with a tough adversary, the United States..."

"The Pershing missiles will now definitely be installed in Europe, the Geneva conference will not progress a single step and Japan will finally be prepared to adhere to the U.S. system of military defense. From now on, the Soviet Union is really besieged."

TV: "I Hope the World Shows Its Repudiation"

TV Cultura's foreign policy commentator yesterday emphasized "worldwide condemnation of the act of barbarism committed by the USSR."

Asserting that the downing of the airliner resulted from centralized Soviet command, the commentator called it "a typical act of barbarism, a criminal act. The USSR intentionally despised those human lives and shot the plane down. It was a crime against mankind. The 269 lives were sacrificed on behalf of a supposed political principle and of a domestic security which was not at stake. I hope the world shows its repudiation of Moscow's attitude."

ARGENTINA

Buenos Aires Papers Carry Korean Communique

Yesterday, leading La Nacion and La Prensa carried the text of the South Korean Embassy's communique that "in this case, humanitarian considerations were laid aside in order to adjust to rigid military instructions..."

"Kremlin's Savage Act Not Surprising"

Conservative La Prensa yesterday ran an article by a byliner who maintained: "It is a general mistake in the West to feel surprised or indignant. The destruction of the Korean airliner...would have been appalling had it been the work of a civilized or indifferently civilized regime..."

"But the Moscow regime is not civilized, even indifferently....It does not try to be. It is a regime made up of savages whose first and preferred victims are their own people..."

"If All Countries Acted as the Soviet Union Did..."

Yesterday's conservative La Nacion held that "the Soviet charge that the United States Government was using the plane for espionage purposes is childish, to say the least. Considering the extraordinary resources available to the big powers for espionage, it is difficult to conceive of such rudimentary methods..."

"Even if the charge were true, one cannot understand why the Soviet Union, with its impressive defensive and offensive technological arsenal, was unable to prevent the alleged mission in some other way..."

"If all countries in the world were to act as the Soviet Union did...the hard-earned safety of airliners would disappear..."

CHILE

"Difference Between Soviet Words and Deeds"

Yesterday's conservative El Mercurio in Santiago cited President Reagan to the effect that the people of the world should perceive the "difference between Soviet words and deeds" from its action in downing the Korean plane.

"Many Information Gaps in What We Know"

An editorial in Saturday's La Nacion of Santiago could find no legitimate explanation for the Soviet action but asked a number of questions. It said: "...There are many information gaps in what we know to date. Planes are constantly in touch with a communications center. They never fly on their own, never blindly. There is always a center, a control tower that knows everything that is happening on board."

"Is it that such centers in Anchorage, Tokyo or Seoul knew nothing at the time? On the other hand, through U.S. Naval and Japanese land intelligence, we know what was said by the Soviet pilots of the eight fighter-bombers which flanked the Korean jumbo jet?..."

COLOMBIA

"Soviet Arms to Be Used, Not to Maintain Peaceful Equilibrium"

In Bogota yesterday, conservative El Siglo carried a byliner's comment that "the terrible, unjustified and perfidious attack on a commercial Korean airliner by a Soviet fighter is a clear and precise warning by the hammer and sickle to all of the Western world that the arms they have are not for the purpose of maintaining a peaceful equilibrium...but to be used in whatever circumstances, including against defenseless passengers..."

"President Reagan is right when he deploys U.S. military power with the vision that he has regarding international problems. He knows that Russian intentions go much further than the words they use in international forums."

PERU

"A Repulsive Crime"

Pro-Government Expreso of Lima yesterday editorialized under the title "Genocide in the Air" and declared: "There can exist no justification for such a repulsive crime, not even the fact that a defenseless plane overflew security zones, since it was not only evident that it was a matter of a navigational error...but also that its passing over territory controlled by the USSR did not represent a threat of attack..."

"The plane was an unarmed, vulnerable, commercial, passenger airliner..."

ECUADOR

"Shows the Terrible Vulnerability to Atomic Holocaust"

Center-left La Razon of Quito yesterday pointed out that "what just happened to the Korean plane with premeditation and in cold blood...seems to reflect the disappearance of the most basic sense of humanity..."

PARAGUAY

Stroessner Letter to President Reagan

In Asuncion Saturday, Colorado Party newspaper Patria carried a letter from President Alfredo Stroessner to President Reagan expressing "our most energetic condemnation and repudiation of this brutal episode..."

PANAMA

Ultimate Danger of Soviet "Tension, Fear and Excessive Zeal"

A commentator said on Panamanian TV Friday that the incident resulted from "the tension among those who guard the Soviet borders and of the fear and excessive zeal of the Soviets on foreign planes flying over their area.

"May the terrible tragedy...serve for reflection on what might happen on the day that zeal, error or lack of communication precipitates a nuclear attack."

AFRICA

TANZANIA

News Coverage of UN Debate

Today's official Daily News of Dar es Salaam carried news coverage of the U.N. debate under the headline "UN Discusses Korean Plane." It devoted two paragraphs to a Soviet TASS report that Soviet radar operators may have mistaken the airliner for a U.S. Air Force plane resembling the Boeing 747.

ZAIRE

"Has Shocked Human Conscience"

In Kinshasa today, the Zaire news agency (AZAP) had the Government's statement that the Soviet action resulted "in the deaths of hundreds of innocent persons in violation of international law and morals."

The paper said Zaire had sent a message of sympathy to the Government and people of South Korea and to the families of the victims and had condemn the shooting down of the plane as an action that "has shocked human conscience" and that comes at a time "when international relations are already tense, leading, in turn, to mistrust, violence and insecurity in the international community."

SWAZILAND

"World Outrage Over Downing of Airliner"

The Swazi News yesterday devoted a page to the incident under the headline "World Outrage Over Downing of Airliner." The Swazi Observer's headline for a Reuters article was "South Korea Demands Apology from Soviet Union."

LESOTHO

"Darkest Cloud" Over U.S.-Soviet Relations Since Afghanistan

Radio Lesotho's morning news program on Friday provided a compendium of expressions of outrage from world capitals. Among those quoted were Figaro of Paris, reports from Tokyo and New York. The radio commented that the incident had provoked the "darkest cloud" over U.S.-Soviet relations since the Russian invasion of Afghanistan.